

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LOME 01881 252155Z

65

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 068904

O R 251815Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9574

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

S E C R E T LOME 1881

EXDIS

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: TO, MILI, PFOR, PINS

SUBJECT: TOGO: STUDENT AND REGIONAL SUPPORT FOR EYADEMA COMMANDS

PUBLIC ATTENTION

REF: A. LOME 1870

B. STATE 200382

C. LOME 1860

D. LOME 1789

1. SUMMARY: TODAY'S "TOGO-PRESSE" EDITORIAL CALLS FOR INDIVISIBLE NATIONAL UNITY. IT CITES STUDENT AND REGIONAL SUPPORT FOR EYADEMA AS HAVING "GREAT POLITICAL IMPORT" BECAUSE IT IS "SIGNIFICANT FOR MORE THAN ONE REASON." STUDENTS IN ALL REGIONS OF COUNTRY NOW HAVE PLEDGED SUPPORT TO EYADEMA, ACCORDING TO PRESS, AND THERE IS INCREASING EMPHASIS ON CENSURE OF EVIL AND REACTIONARY "CITIZENS." EMBASSY CONTINUES TO BELIEVE ARREST OF MILITARY OFFICERS BEING TURNED INTO OPPORTUNITY FOR EYADEMA TO STRENGTHEN SOLE PARTY (RPT) AND IMPRESS TOGOLESE PEOPLE ONCE AGAIN AS GREAT NATION BUILDER. "COUP" RUMORS SEEM TO BE DYING OUT, AND IT IS REASONABLE NOW TO QUESTION WHETHER EYADEMA TRULY FEARED, AS REGARDS COMLAN, THAT USG INVOLVED IN "COUP PLOT" OR HE WAS SEEKING JUSTIFY ACTION AGAINST COMLAN AS "SECURITY RISK" BE-

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 LOME 01881 252155Z

CAUSE OF ALLEGED AFFAIR WITH AMERICAN EMBASSY SECRETARY SOME

TIME IN PAST. END SUMMARY.

2. TODAY'S EDITORIAL IN "TOGO-PRESSE" (ONLY TWO EDITORIALS, ONE PURELY POLITICAL, HAVE APPEARED SINCE MILITARY OFFICERS ARRESTED TWO WEEKS AGO) IS ENTITLED "UNION WITHOUT FISSURE." EDITORIAL CITES ANEHO DELEGATION'S VISIT TO EYADEMA IN PYA AND SAVANNAH REGION STUDENTS' MOTION OF SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT LAST WEEK (REF C), STATING "THESE TWO ACTIONS OF GREAT POLITICAL IMPORT RETAIN OUR ATTENTION THIS WEEK BECAUSE THEY ARE SIGNIFICANT FOR MORE THAN ONE REASON." IN CONTEXT OF EYADEMA'S STRUGGLE AGAINST "IMPERIALISM AND UNDERDEVELOPMENT" OVER PAST NINE YEARS, EDITORIAL REMINDS READERS THAT PRESIDENT'S AIMS REQUIRE CONSOLIDATION OF ALL NATIONAL FORCES AND COMMON WILL TO "UNMASK LOCAL LACKEYS OF IMPERIALISM." IT CALLS FOR END TO TRIBALISM, FROM WHICH TOGO'S ENEMIES OFTEN PROFIT AND QUOTES EYADEMA'S REMARKS TO ANEHO DELEGATION AS FOLLOWS: "IT IS NECESSARY THAT ALL TOGOLESE FEEL HAPPY WHEREVER THEY ARE IN TOGO. DISPARITIES BETWEEN OUR REGIONS MUST DISAPPEAR AND NATIONAL UNITY MUST BE CONCRETE." EDITORIAL ENDS ON NOTE THAT EMERGENCE OF YOUNG NATION LIKE TOGO DEPENDS UPON DYNAMISM AND UNSELFISHNESS OF EACH CITIZEN, WHICH MEANS TOTAL ABANDONMENT OF FRENETIC PROFITEERING, UNSCRUPULOUS AMBITION AND OUTMODED ATTITUDES.

3. FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF SAVANNAH AREA STUDENTS' RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR EYADEMA (REF C), STUDENTS FROM ALL OTHER REGIONS OF TOGO, FORMULATED DECLARATIONS OVER WEEKEND. "TOGO-PRESSE" ACCOUNT TODAY SHOWS THESE FOLLOWED SOME PATTERN, BUT FOCUSED EMPHASIS UPON INTERNAL ELEMENTS AS CAUSE OF STUDENT UNREST. NEW DECLARATIONS DISAPPROVED OF "EVIL AND RETROGRESSIVE ACTIVITIES OF CERTAIN CITIZENS WHO WISH TO USE STUDENT YOUTH TO CHALLENGE PRESENT REGIME." THEY CONDEMN BOTH "TENDENTIOUS USE OF STUDENT GRIEVANCES BY CERTAIN REACTIONARY AND ANTI-GOVERNMENT PERSONS TO SATISFY THEIR PERNICIOUS AIMS," AS WELL AS "IMMORDERATE MEANS USED BY CERTAIN STUDENTS TO PROMOTE THEIR OWN POINT OF VIEW." (REF D). ONLY BRIEF MENTION MADE OF "IMPERIALISM/IST" AND "NEO-COLONIALISTS." STUDENTS CONCLUDE OPTIMISTICALLY WITH CALL FOR FRANK AND HONEST DIALOGUE BETWEEN STUDENTS AND GOVERNMENT AND REAFFIRM THEIR SUPPORT FOR EYADEMA AND HIS POLICY OF DIALOGUE.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 LOME 01881 252155Z

4. "COUP" RUMORS SEEM TO BE DYING OUT, AND EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS POPULAR ATTITUDES TOWARD THEM RANGE FROM INDIFFERENCE TO DISGUST AND INCREDULITY.

5. COMMENT: A) WE HAVE SENSED FOR PAST FEW DAYS THAT EYADEMA NOW TURNING ARREST OF MILITARY OFFICERS INTO OPPORTUNITY FOR FURTHER SHOW OF POLITICAL CONSOLIDATION, I.E. STUDENT AND REGIONAL SUPPORT. (TOGO'S SOLE POLITICAL PARTY (RPT) BEING STRENGTHENED BY ADDI-

TION OF STUDENTS, AND EYADEMA IS AGAIN MASTER NATION BUILDER.)
OF ALL MILITARY OFFICERS ARRESTED, COMLAN ALONE PROBABLY HAS
BACKGROUND AND ATTITUDE TO INSTILL SUSPICION, AND EVEN FEAR OF
HIS INTENTIONS, IN EYADEMA. NOW, IT SEEMS EVEN COMLAN INDIRECTLY
IS BEING BRANDED SIMPLY AS REACTIONARY CITIZEN WHOM NEFARIOUS
DEEDS AMONG WAYWARD STUDENTS ARE INCOMPATIBLE WITH SPIRIT OF
EYADEMA'S PRECEPTS IN "NEW TOGO." "COUP" RUMORS SEEM TO BE DYING
OUT, AND IT IS REASONABLE NOW TO QUESTION WHETHER EYADEMA AT
OUTSET TRULY FEARED THAT USG WAS INVOLVED IN
"COUP PLOT" OR WAS SEEKING TO JUSTIFY PREEMPTIVE ACTION ARAINST
COMLAN, AND TO DISCREDIT HIM, ON BASIS COMLAN'S ALLEGED PAST
AFFAIR WITH AMERICAN EMBASSY SECRETARY POSED THREAT TO TOGO'S
SECURITY.

B) WE BELIEVE EMBASSY'S CALM ALOOFNESS IS IMPORTANT FACTOR IN
DECLINE OF RUMORMONGERING. IN THIS CONNECTION, I APPRECIATE
DEPARTMENT'S UNDERSTANDING SUPPORT IN THE COURSE WE HAVE STEERED
HERE. I SHALL INDEED FIND APPROPRIATE OCCASION TO BRING TO
ATTENTION OF HIGH LEVELS IN GOT DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ON COUP
ALLEGATIONS INVOLVING USG.
RAWLS

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, MILITARY PERSONNEL, POPULAR SUPPORT, STUDENTS, ARRESTS, INFORMATION CONTROL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LOME01881
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X4
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750294-0014
From: LOME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750822/aaaaastf.tel
Line Count: 136
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 LOME 1870
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 AUG 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <09 DEC 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TOGO: STUDENT AND REGIONAL SUPPORT FOR EYADEMA COMMANDS PUBLIC ATTENTION
TAGS: MILI, PFOR, PINS, TO, (EYADEMA, ETIENNE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006